

Abstract of the Disclosure

**TIRE WITH COMPONENT OF RUBBER COMPOSITION
COMPRISED OF SILANOL AND/OR SILOXY
FUNCTIONALIZED ELASTOMER AND SILICA**

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10 The invention relates to a tire having at least one component (e.g. tread) of a
rubber composition comprised of a composite of styrene/butadiene elastomer and
functionalized styrene/butadiene elastomer containing an internal silanol and/or siloxy
group therein with pendent silanol and/or alkoxy groups of a polymodal (e.g. bimodal)
molecular weight distribution and a dispersion therein of silica aggregates of which a
portion thereof contain a plurality of hydroxyl groups on their surface in a form of
geminal hydroxyl groups. In one aspect, said silica aggregates may be pre-treated to
15 reduce said hydroxyl groups on their surface prior to blending with said silanol and/or
siloxy functionalized elastomer.